

## **Report for Shorter Walks group 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**By Sue Overton**

Skies were overcast as 14 members met opposite the Bridge Inn, Whorlton (now closed sadly) and set off on a 3-mile circular walk. Recent rains had made the hard stony tracks slippery and the field paths quite muddy.

Turning right from the main road the concreted/stony track passes Hill Top Cottage before crossing Whorlton Beck with its noisy waterfall visible on our left. Bearing left at a fork, the track continues past farm buildings becoming narrower with high hedges before emerging into open fields. We turned sharp right at a metal gate (very badly signed here) to progress down the edge of a field towards the river where we turned right to join the well used path high above the River Tees. The steep drop down to the river required extra care – mud and landslips potential hazards here.

Leaves on the trees were starting to change colour, the hawthorn bushes were heavy with bright red berries and we could see Wycliffe on the opposite banks of the river.

The path then joins with the concrete track at the fork from the beginning of the walk and we were soon back to our cars parked near the village green. Such a shame that the Bridge Inn was not open – a cuppa would have been most welcome at this point!

Our next walk will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.